

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN JO 01321 021746Z

15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SEC-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 SCA-01 /069 W
----- 073127

R 021625Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9783

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1321

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO U.S. ATTORNEY, SOUTHERN
DISTRICT, NEW YORK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PGOV CS

SUBJECT: APPARENT END TO THE "JOYA POCO" AFFAIR

REF: SAN JOSE 0984

SAN JOSE A-28

1. DESPITE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S CRITICISM OF
VESCO'S YACHT'S TAX-FREE STATUS (SAN JOSE 0984)
AND DESPITE THE CUSTOMS DIRECTOR'S ORDER TO SEIZE
THE YACHT AND CHARGE IT WITH VIOLATION OF COSTA RICAN
CUSTOMS REGULATIONS, THE "JOYA POCO" ENTERED COSTA RICAN
WATERS ON MARCH 14 AND PAID \$151,000 IN TAXES
(PLUS \$1,000 IN FINES) AND WAS RELEASED FLYING A
COSTA RICAN FLAG (SAN JOSE A-28).

2. WHY THE YACHT WAS RELEASED WHILE A FRAUD
CHARGE WAS PENDING AGAINST IT IN THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAN JO 01321 021746Z

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WAS EXPLAINED SUBSEQUENTLY

BY THE CUSTOMS OFFICIAL IN PUNTARENAS WHO COLLECTED THE TAXES. ACCORDING TO HIS STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, THE CUSTOMS DIRECTOR'S ORDER REGARDING THE COURT CASE AGAINST THE YACHT REACHED HIM AT 12 NOON ON MARCH 14 WHILE THE "JOYA POCO". HAD PAID ITS TAXES AT 10 AM.

3. ALTHOUGH THE TAXES WERE PAID AND THE JOYA POCO REPORTEDLY LEFT COSTA RICAN WATERS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL INDICATED PUBLICALLY THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO STUDY THE CASE TO DETERMINE IF FRAUD CHARGES COULD INDEED BE BROUGHT AGAINST THE YACHT AND ITS CREW. HOWEVER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORTEDLY REQUIRED MORE DOCUMENTATION AND SAID HIS DECISION WOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER HOLY WEEK.

4. EMBASSY SOURCES ON APRIL 1 INDICATED THAT IT IS NOW HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE CASE AGAINST VESCO'S YACHT WILL EVER BE PROCESSED.
TODMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, CUSTOMS DUTIES, JOYA POCA, TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO01321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0829
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750489/aaaaddax.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SAN JOSE 0984
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPARENT END TO THE "JOYA POCO" AFFAIR
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS, (VESCO, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006